

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

THE FAST-ACTION WESTERN!

PDC

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A. C. M. P.

CONFORMS
to the
COMICS
CODE

BLACK



10¢

DIAMOND

WESTERN

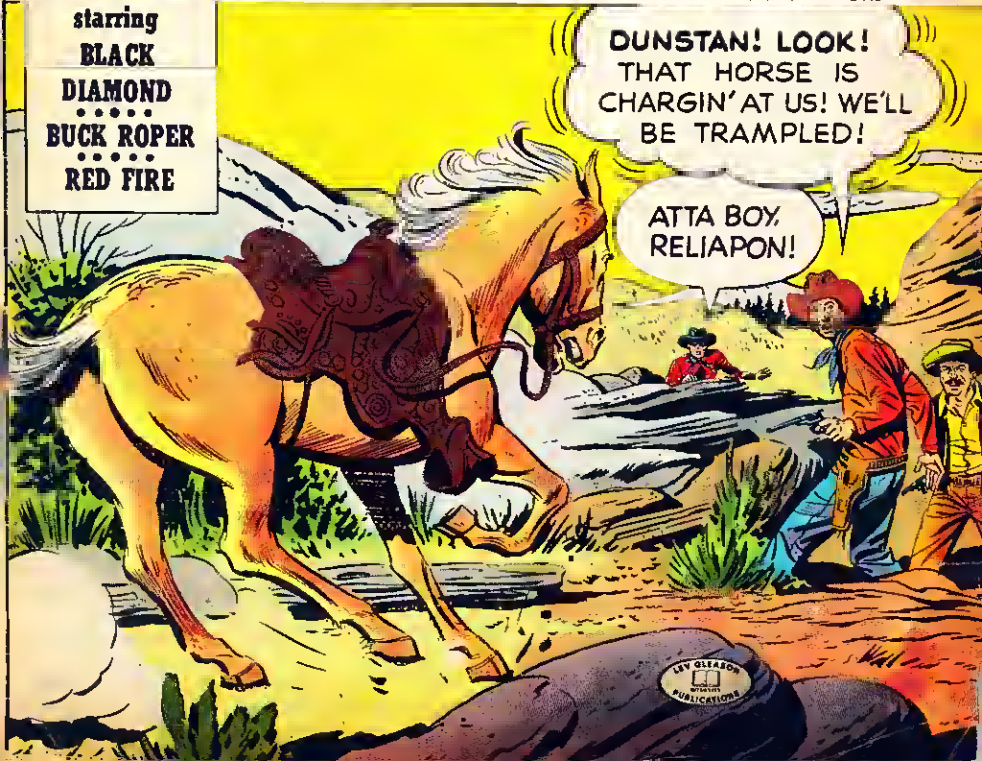
OCT.
NO. 47

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

3 feature-
length
thrillerstories
starring
**BLACK
DIAMOND**
...
BUCK ROPER
...
RED FIRE

DUNSTAN! LOOK!
THAT HORSE IS
CHARGIN' AT US! WE'LL
BE TRAMPLED!

ATTA BOY,
RELIAPON!



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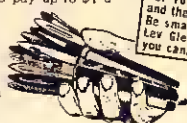
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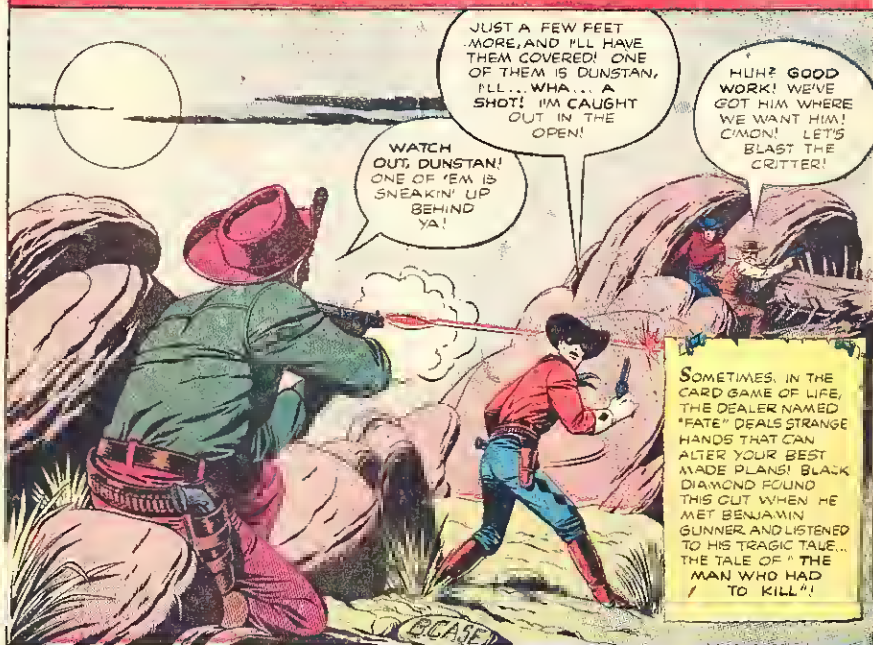
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BLACK DIAMOND

IN "FORCED TO KILL"



IT WAS A COOL AUTUMN EVENING AS BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER JOGGED THEIR MOUNTS ALONG A DUSTY TRAIL... SUDDENLY...

STOP WHERE YOU ARE, YOU TWO! THAT WAS JUST A WARNING SHOT! NOW TURN AROUND AND VAMOOSE! NOBODY'S TAKIN' ME IN!

HEY! MY MUSTACHE!

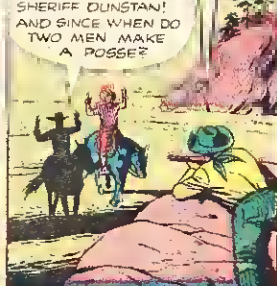
HE'S GOT THE DROP ON US! CAN'T EVEN SEE HIM!

I KNOW SHERIFF DUNSTAN SENT YOU OUT TO BRING ME IN FOR GUNNIN' HIS KID BROTHER!

YOU'VE GOT US WRONG, STRANGER! WE NEVER HEARD OF SHERIFF DUNSTAN! AND SINCE WHEN DO TWO MEN MAKE A POSSE?

NOW GET OUTTA HERE, OR I'LL BLAST YOU!

HMM...MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! LET ME TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, AND DON'T SLAP LEATHER IF YOU WANT TO LIVE! HEY! YOU'RE MASKED-OUTLAW, EH? GUESS I'M IN THE SAME BOAT AS YOU NOW! C'MON AND JOIN ME BY MY CAMPFIRE FOR SOME GRUB!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

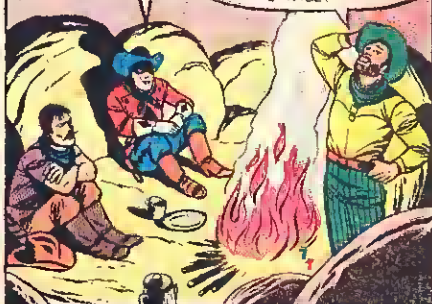


PEST... HE'S PUT UP THE SHOTGUN, DIAMOND! MAYBE WE OUGHTA TRY TAKIN' HIM WHILE HE'S OFF GUARD... SINCE HE ADMITS TO A KILLIN'!

SHH... PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT, BUMPER! LETS GET HIS STORY FIRST!

IF YOU WERE REALLY A KILLER... AND THOUGHT WE WERE AFTER YOU, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE FIRED THAT WARNING SHOT!

ME... NOT A KILLER? HA! HA! THAT'S A LAUGH, MISTER! WHY I'VE ALREADY SENT ELEVEN MEN TO BOOT HILL IN LESS THAN A YEAR! IF YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU THE STORY, I WILL!



MY NAME'S BENJAMIN GUNNER! I HIT THIS TERRITORY LAST SPRING WITH 1000 HEAD OF SHEEP, RIGHT AWAY YOUR LOCAL CATTLEMEN TOLD ME I WASN'T WELCOME...

FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, KEEP MOVIN', STRANGER! WE DON'T FAVOR NO SHEEP ON CATTLE GRAZIN' LAND!

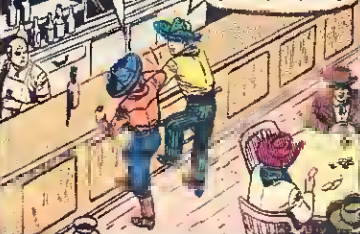
LAND'S FREE, AIN'T IT? AN! THERE'S PLENTY OF IT... FAR'S I CAN SEE!



OLD JUDSON MCCANN AND HIS FOUR SONS DOMINATED THE AREA! THEY OWNED THE LARGEST CATTLE RANCH AND HERD! I WAS SETTLED ABOUT A MONTH WHEN...

YOU TAKE UP TOO MUCH ROOM, SHEERMAN! WHEN YOU SEE A MCCANN, GIVE 'EM ROOM!

YOU'RE JUST SPOILIN' FOR A FIGHT, AIN'T YOU? G'WAN HOME, AN! TELL YOUR PAW TO TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS!



NOBODY GETS AWAY WITH INSULTIN' MY PAW OR ME! DRAW! LETS SEE YOU LIVE UP TO THAT NAME OF YOURIN, GUNNER!

BEAT IT! I DON'T TANGLE WITH WET-NOSED BRATS!



TIMMY PICKED THIS FIGHT! LET 'IM GO IT ALONE! HE'S A MAN NOW!

THE KID HAD DRAWN AND FIRED BEFORE I EVEN MADE A MOVE! BEFORE HE COULD FIRE AGAIN, I DREW HIS BLOOD!

THAT DID IT SHEEP-MAN! HERE, EAT SOME LEAD AND... AAAGGHH!

SORRY, KID BUT YOU WERE PLEADING FOR IT!



WHY YOU ORNERY POLECAT! HE'S ONLY NINETEEN! I'M GONNA...

YOU'LL GET THE SAME IF YOU SLAP LEATHER! YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED! WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO... STAND HERE AND LET HIM KILL ME? THAT BABY'S GOT NO RIGHT TO PACK A GUN!

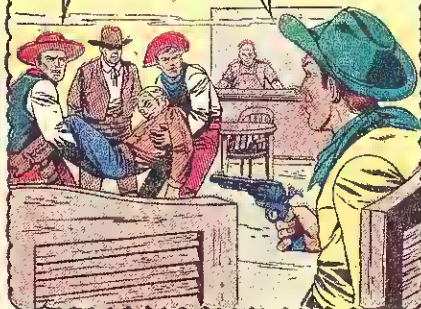


TIMMY! TIMMY! SPEAK TO ME!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

YOU'D BETTER PRAY THAT TIMMY LIVES, GUNNER!

OR ELSE I'M IN FOR TROUBLE, EH? WELL, REMEMBER THIS...I DON'T GO LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE...BUT I AIN'T DODGIN' ANY, EITHER! GET THE KID TO THE DOC - FAST!



I LIT OUT BACK TO MY SPREAD! NEXT MORNING I DROPPED IN ON SHERIFF DUNSTAN TO TELL MY SIDE OF THE STORY...

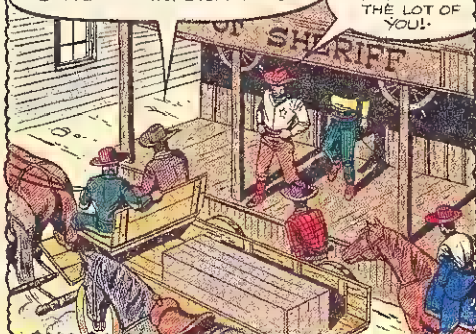
...AND I DIDN'T EVEN DRAW UNTIL AFTER HE'D FIRED! IT WAS...

I KNOW, GUNNER! MY DEPUTY SAW THE WHOLE THING! THAT KID'S BEEN LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE A LONG TIME, FIGURIN' HIS BROTHERS WOULD BACK HIM UP...SAY! WHAT'S THAT RUCKUS OUTSIDE?



MY SON WAS CUT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD BY THAT SHEEPHERDER, SHERIFF! HE DIED THIS MORNIN'! AFTER THE FUNERAL WE'RE GONNA GET HIM AND YOU'D BETTER NOT TRY STOPPIN' US!

SORRY, MCCANN, BUT I'M KEEPIN' THE PEACE EVEN IF I HAVE TO JAIL THE LOT OF YOU!



PAW-LOOK! THERE HE IS NOW! THAT'S HIM - BEHIND THE SHERIFF! I'LL...

YOU'LL DROP YOUR GUN - PRONTO! I WON'T AIM SO CAREFULLY NEXT SHOT! NOW, KEEP MOVIN', MCCANN!

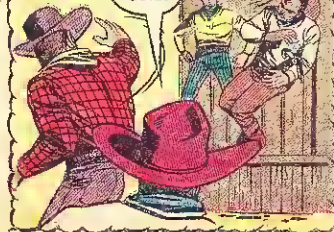


A ROCK THROWN BY JUDSON MCCANN CAUGHT DUNSTAN!

OUTTA MY WAY SHERIFF! C'MON! LET'S POWDER THAT MANGY COYOTE AFORE HE GITS AWAY!

THEY'RE TOO BLINDED WITH GRIEF TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOIN'! GOT TO GET AWAY, OR I'LL HAVE TO KILL AGAIN!

GET 'PA, BOYS!



BLINDLY, I TURNED AND RACED DOWN THE ALLEYWAY. THE MCCANN'S IN HOT PURSUIT! SUDDENLY I REALIZED MY MISTAKE...

WHAT THE...? IT'S A DEAD END! I'M TRAPPED!

HE'S CORNERED, BOSS! LET DAY LIGHT THROUGH THE MAVRICK! HE CAN'T GET AWAY NOW!



HOW THEY MISSED ME, I'LL NEVER KNOW! I DIVED FOR MY ONLY SOURCE OF PROTECTION... A RAIN BARREL...

I HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE! I'VE GOTTA RETURN THEIR FIRE... OR WAIT FOR THE SLUG WITH MY NAME ON IT!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



"I DIDN'T HAVE BULLETS TO WASTE: I FIGURED I WAS A GONER BUT I KEPT COOL... AIMING AND FIRING WITH GREAT CARE! SUDDENLY THE FIRING CEASED: I WAITED... THEN EMERGED, TREMBLING VIOLENTLY AS I REALIZED I HAD WIPED OUT THE WHOLE MCCANN CLAN!"



"ENRAGED CATTLEMEN DEMANDED LEGAL ACTION: SHERIFF DUNSTAN INSISTED ON AN IMPARTIAL JURY AND GOT IT: HE WAS MY BEST WITNESS..."

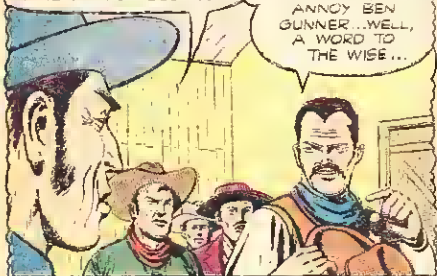
DISREGARDING MY ORDERS THEY ATTACKED ME! I CAME TO IN TIME TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED! I SAY A MIRACULOUS TRICK OF FATE SAVED GUNNER! THERE'S NO DOUBT HE KILLED IN SELF-DEFENSE!



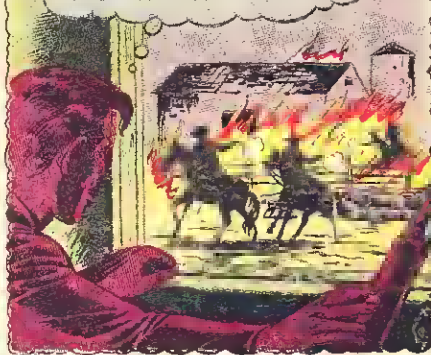
"I WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACQUITTED... BUT A NEW FORM OF TROUBLE BEGAN WHEN THE LOCAL CATTLEMEN FORMED AN ORGANIZATION! DUNSTAN'S DEFENSE OF ME WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!"

THIS IS A CATTLEMEN'S MEETIN', SHERIFF! IT'S PERFECTLY LEGAL, AN' NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

KEEP IT ON THE UP AND UP, AND I'LL SUPPORT YOU, BUT IF YOU TRY TO ANNOY BEN GUNNER... WELL, A WORD TO THE WISE...



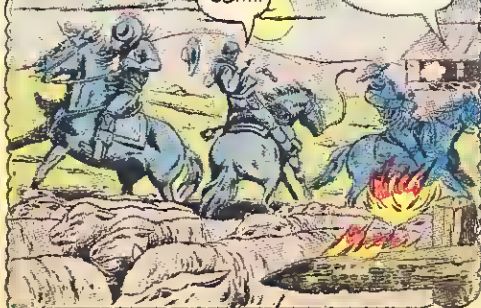
SHOTS! WHAT ON EARTH IS GOIN' ON OUT THERE? WHY, MY BARN'S ON FIRE! THOSE MEN THEY'RE TRAMPLEIN' AND KILLIN' ALL MY SHEEP!



KILL EVERY BLASTED ONE OF HIS WOOLY CRITTERS! HEY! IT'S GUNNER! HE'S FIRIN' AT US! HE'S HIT CLEM! LET'S HIGH-TAIL IT! HE'S A DEAD SHOT!

THE HOUSE IS BURNING, TOO! I CAN'T GET OUT TILL THEY LEAVE! I'D MAKE TOO GOOD A TARGET!

UGH...



"THE BUILDINGS WERE TOO FAR GONE TO SAVE. OUT OF 1000 SHEEP, A BARE HANDFUL REMAINED! I TOUGHT TO SUE THE CATTLEMEN, BUT..."

SURE, GUNNER, YOU KILLED THREE OF A DOZEN! THEY TURNED OUT TO BE MEMBERS OF THE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, BUT YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE OTHERS AND YOU HAVE NO EVIDENCE! I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU, BUT I CAN'T!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, JUDGE! THANKS, ANYWAY!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

I SAID GOOD-BY TO THE JUDGE,
AND AS I STEPPED OUT OF HIS
HIS OFFICE DOOR...

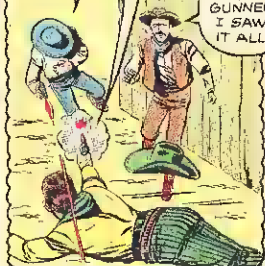
I'VE BEEN HOPIN' TO BUMP
INTO YOU, GUNNER! YOU KILLED
STEVE LESLIE OUT AT YOUR PLACE
THE OTHER NIGHT! WELL, HE
WAS A PAL OF MINE, AN' SO I'M
GONNA GIVE YOU
WHAT'S COMIN'!



NOW, YOU
SLAUGHTER
SHEEP-
HERDER,
YOU'RE
GONNA BE
TAUGHT...
AGGHH!

YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO NEEDS THE
LESSON - A
LESSON IN RESPECT
FOR PEOPLE AND
PRIVATE
PROPERTY! OH,
SHERIFF, I HOPE
YOU SAW THIS, TOO!

YEP,
GUNNER,
I SAW
IT ALL!



LOOKS LIKE IT'LL NEVER END,
BEN! IT'S JUST GONNA KEEP
UP TILL SOMEBODY OUTDRAWS
YOU OR GETS YOU IN THE BACK!
YOU'RE A GOOD JOE, BEN!
WHY NOT HIT OUT FOR
OTHER PARTS... AND
START OVER?

GUESS THAT'S WHAT
I'LL DO! S'LONG,
SHERIFF, AN' THANKS!



BUT WHEREVER I WENT, MY REPUTATION AS A KILLER SEEMED TO FOLLOW ME! COCKY YOUNG KIDS AND MEN TRYING TO BUILD NAMES FOR THEMSELVES CONTINUOUSLY CHALLENGED ME! I PLEADED TO BE LEFT ALONE, BUT THEY FORCED MY HAND...IT WAS KILL OR BE KILLED...

YOU ALL
HEARD ME!
I ASKED HIM
TO LEAVE
ME BE!

SORRY, MAC, I
GOT NO HANKERIN'
TO GET IT IN
THE BACK!



I FINALLY FOUND A SYMPATHETIC FRIEND
IN THE OWNER OF THE CLAYVILLE COURIER
WHO GAVE ME A JOB - ALL WENT WELL
UNTIL ONE DAY THE MCCANN'S NAME
CROPPED UP AGAIN!

BEN, DAD SAYS YOU HAVE THE
MAKINGS OF A GREAT NEWSPAPER-
MAN! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF
THIS MCCANN STORY? DID
YOU KNOW
THEM?

SORT OF...



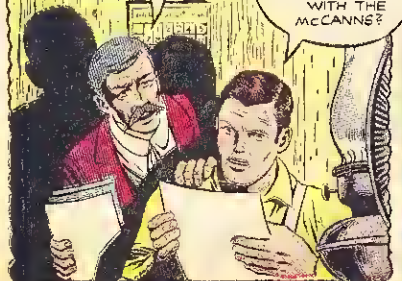
I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATIN' THIS
HUMAN INTEREST YARN, BEN!
IT INVOLVES CLAIMS ON THE
MCCANN'S PROPERTY! SEEMS
LIKE THERE WAS SOME ILLEGAL
BUSINESS GOIN' ON! I WANT
MORE ON IT! GET BUSY,
BEN!

LEMME
SEE! HEY!
WHAT'S
SHERIFF
DUNSTAN'S
NAME DOING
HERE? DON'T
TELL ME HE
WAS CONNECTED
WITH THE
MCCANN'S?

MY INVESTIGATION OF LAND CLAIMS AND REGISTERED
BRANDS REVEALED CROOKED CATTLE DEALS BY THE DEAD
MCCANN'S...AND SHERIFF DUNSTAN'S CLAIMS COULD ONLY
MEAN HE WAS PART OF IT! NOW I SAW THE LIGHT!

SO THIS'S WHAT
I GET FOR
PROTECTING YOU!
WHAT'S THIS
STORY MEAN,
GUNNER - YOU
WROTE IT!

IT'S AN EXPOSE, DUNSTAN...TELLING
THE PEOPLE OF THE DIRTY DEALS
YOU'VE BEEN PERPETRATING ON
THE SIDE! I'VE GOT THE PROOF
IN CASE YOU'RE THINKING OF
SUING FOR LIBEL! NOW,
GET OUT!



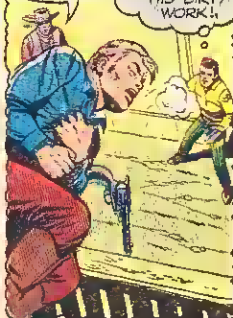
BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

DUNSTAN'S EYES STARED DAGGERS OF HATE...BUT TO KILL ME WOULD MEAN ADMITTING HIS GUILT! THE ARTICLES CONTINUED FOR A FEW DAYS, AND THEN...



WHAT TH?...SOMEBODY'S ON THAT BALCONY ACROSS THE STREET! MAYBE ONE OF DUNSTAN'S BOYS...OR ELSE SOMEBODY'S LEARNED ABOUT MY PAST!

YOU GOT 'IM, BEN! HE'S SHERIFF DUNSTAN'S KID BROTHER!

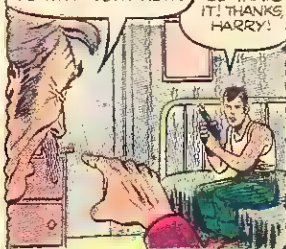


DUNSTAN'S KID BROTHER! WHY THE DIRTY HE SACRIFICED HIS OWN BROTHER FOR HIS DIRTY WORK!

"I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW CAREFULLY DUNSTAN HAD PLANNED TO EXTERMINATE ME, LATER, IN MY ROOM..."

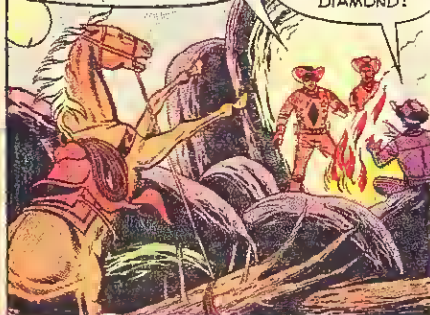
BEN, YOU'VE GOTTA HIGHTAIL IT! I OVERHEARD DUNSTAN ORDERIN' HIS MEN TO INOATE A MOB INTO LYNCHIN' YOU! HE KNOWS YOU'D GET ACQUITTIN' IN A TRIAL! HURRY--THE MOB'S FORMIN' RIGHT NOW!

SO THAT'S IT! THANKS, HARRY!



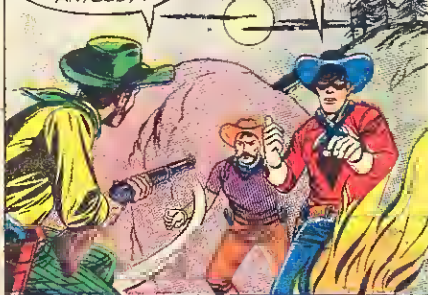
SO THAT'S YOUR STORY, EH? WELL, BEN...I BELIEVE IT--EVERY WORD! AND I...SAY, WHAT'S RELIAPON SO FIDGETY ABOUT? EASY, RELIAPON, EASY, BOY!

WH...? DID YOU CALL THAT HORSE RELIAPON? WHY, YOU'RE NO OUTLAW! YOU'RE THE BLACK DIAMOND!



GUNNER! DON'T BE A FOOL! LISTEN...HEAR THAT? HORSES AND MEN ARE NEARBY...PROBABLY DUNSTAN! PUT UP YOUR GUN! IF YOU KNOW WHO I AM, YOU KNOW WHAT I STAND FOR! YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! WE'LL PROTECT YOU!

STAND STILL! I CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY!



AWARE THAT GUNNER'S ABILITY AS A QUICK SHOT MIGHT EQUAL HIS OWN, BLACK DIAMOND MOVED WITH LIGHTNING FAST ACTION...

NO, YOU DON'T! I... AGG...

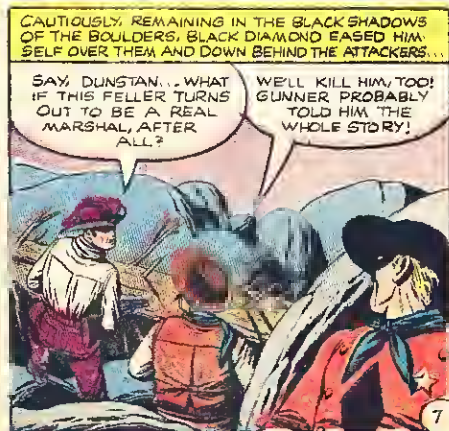
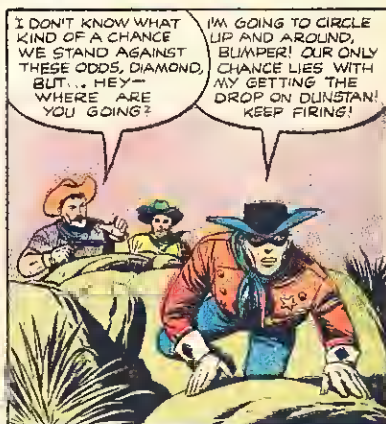
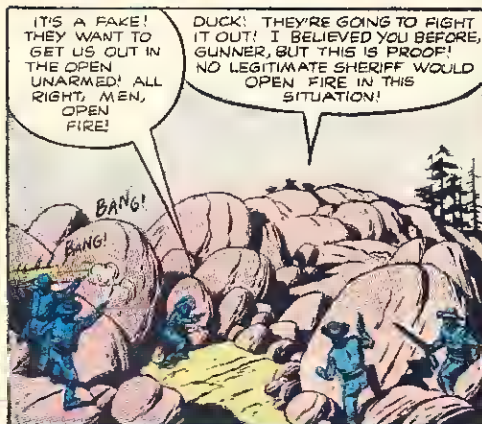
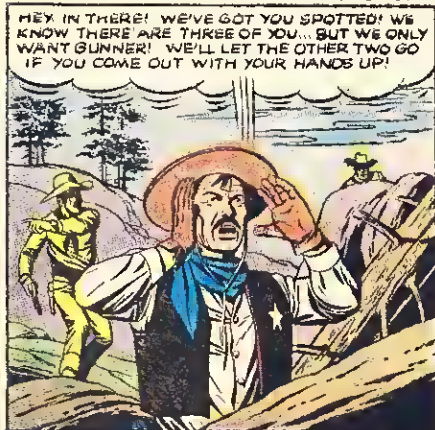
GREAT SHOOTIN', DIAMOND! I'VE GOT HIM! HURRY AND SMOTHER THAT FIRE! I'LL GET THE HORSES AS SOON AS I DISARM GUNNER!



JUST HOPE THEY RIDE ON FAST! ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT'VE SPOTTED US ALREADY BECAUSE OF THAT SHOT!

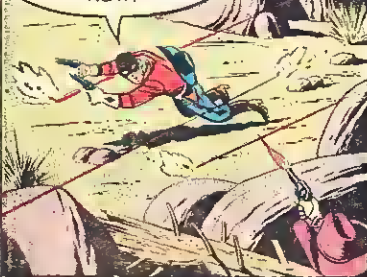
WH...WHY, YOU REALLY ARE GONNA HELP ME! I'M SORRY--I...LISTEN! SOMEONE'S YELLING! THAT'S DUNSTAN--I RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE!





AS BULLETS WHINED IN HIS DIRECTION, THE BLACK DIAMOND DIVED TO THE GROUND TO MAKE A SMALLER TARGET OF HIMSELF! A SHRILL WHISTLE ISSUED FROM HIS LIPS...

WHEE-EET! C'MON, RELIAPON—I'VE NEVER NEEDED YOU MORE THAN I DO NOW!

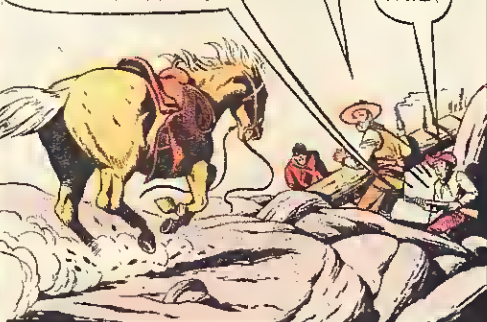


WITH A MOMENTS' HESITATION, THE FLAME COLORED STALLION REARED UP AND CAME CHARGING OUT TO AID HIS MASTER...

DUNSTAN! LOOK! THAT HORSE IS CHARGIN' AT US! WE'LL BE TRAMPLED!

SHOOT HIM!

TOO LATE!



SAVE US! SAVE US! THAT NAG'S GONE PLUMB LOCO! AAGH!

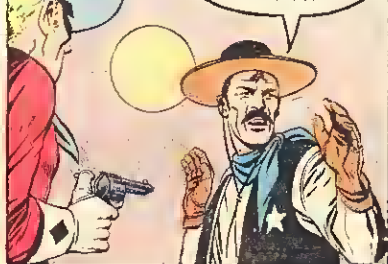
DOWN, RELIAPON—DOWN! EASY THERE, BOY! I DON'T WANT THEM ALL KILLED!



ALL RIGHT, DUNSTAN, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU DON'T WANT A BELLYFULL OF LEAD!

D. DON'T SHOOT! WE GIVE UP!

LISTEN, MEN, THROW DOWN YER SHOOTIN' IRONS AN' COME OUT WITH YER HANDS UP! THIS VARMINT'LL KILL ME IF YOU DON'T!



BUNPER, GUNNER! SEARCH THEM FOR ANY HIDDEN WEAPONS! WE'RE HEADING BACK TO CLAYVILLE! I'LL KEEP DUNSTAN WITH ME UP FRONT JUST FOR INSURANCE!

GOOD! I'LL RIDE REAR GUARD AND LET GUNNER KEEP AN EYE ON THE FRONT OF THE PACK!



HOLD UP THERE, DUNSTAN! THIS PASS IS ONLY WIDE ENOUGH FOR ONE MAN AT A TIME! ISN'T THERE ANOTHER TRAIL TO CLAYVILLE?

SURE, BUT I'LL TAKE ABOUT TWELVE MORE HOURS TO GO AROUND! ASK GUNNER!



OKAY, DUNSTAN, BUT DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS! YOU LEAD THE WAY AND REMEMBER, I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!



BUT AS BLACK DIAMOND SURVEYED THE SITUATION, DUNSTAN CAST A VERY MEANINGFUL EXPRESSION AT ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES, STAN POLKAR...

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

CASUALLY, UNNOTICED, DEPUTY POLKAR WAITED UNTIL HE REACHED A HALF-WAY POINT THROUGH THE PASS WHERE A BROKEN PATH, LEADING TO THE TOP OF THE BOULDER, BRANCHED OFF THE REGULAR TRAIL, AND...

GOOD THING I STAYED IN THE CENTER OF THE PACK! THEY NEVER SPOTTED ME!



WHAT'RE WE STOPPIN' FOR?

JUST CHECKING UP! KEEP MOVING... NICE AND SLOW! AND STICK TO THE TRAIL!



THIS IS GONNA BE MORE PLEASURE THAN I FIGURED! AN AVALANCHE WOULD'VE SCATTERED THE PACK IN ALL DIRECTIONS BEFORE... BUT NOW, IF I TIME IT RIGHT, IT'LL BE A PINE BOX FOR THE BLACK DIAMOND!



WATCH IT! THERE'S GONNA BE AN AVALANCHE!

ON YOUR TOES! THEY'LL THINK WE'RE JUST TRYIN' TO SAVE OUR NECKS! THEN WE HIGH-TAIL IT!



...JUST A LITTLE MORE AND... UGGH! NOW!

HEY! DIAMOND! WHAT'S WRONG?

LOOK OUT, BUMPER! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO START AN AVALANCHE!

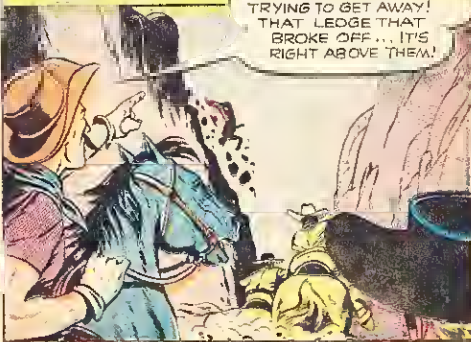


GOT HIM! SURE, HE WAS TRYING TO SHOVE THAT ROCK OFF THE EDGE! IT WOULD'VE CAUSED AN AVALANCHE AND KILLED US! MUST BE ONE OF DUNSTAN'S MEN WHO GOT AWAY SOMEHOW!



FATALLY WOUNDED, THE DEPUTY STUMBLER BLINDLY AND HURTLED FROM THE CLIFF A FEW FEET FROM WHERE THE ROCK STOOD... HIS BODY STRIKING A LEDGE WHICH BROKE LOOSE AND...

DIAMOND, LOOK! DUNSTAN'S TRYING TO GET AWAY! THAT LEDGE THAT BROKE OFF... IT'S RIGHT ABOVE THEM!



THEY'RE GALLOPING RIGHT INTO THE SLIDE! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THEM! DUNSTAN'S GOT TO STAND TRIAL!

SNAP OUT OF IT, GUNNER! THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY! YOU'D ONLY BE CAUGHT IN THE AVALANCHE, TOO!

SNAP OUT OF IT,
GUNNER! THEY'RE
TOO FAR AWAY!
YOU'D ONLY BE
CAUGHT IN THE
AVALANCHE,
TOO!

DUNSTAN BROUGHT IT
ON HIMSELF! CAUGHT
- IN THE TRAP HE
PLANNED FOR US! I
GUESS THAT'S WHAT
THEY CALL
POETIC JUSTICE!



HEY, THAT STORY
YOU TOLD US
DIDN'T MENTION
ANY FEMALE
ENTANGLEMENTS!

GOLLY,
MA'AM! I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU FELT
LIKE THAT!

DUNSTAN
AND HIS
WHOLE GANG
ARE DEAD
THESE MEN
SAVED MY
LIFE!

YOUR JOB
ON THE
PAPER'S
STILL
OPEN,

SHUCKS, HE'D MAKE
A BETTER SHERIFF
THAN A NEWS-
PAPER MAN...I
MEAN AFTER THE
HONEYMOON,
THAT IS!

ALL RIGHT,
BUMPER! LET'S
GO GET SOME
BREAKFAST!



SAVED MY LIFE!

BEN!

HONEYMOON, THAT IS!

THE END

FOR MORE LUSTY ADVENTURE AND RIP-SNORING ACTION, DON'T MISS THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN!

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CAN GET
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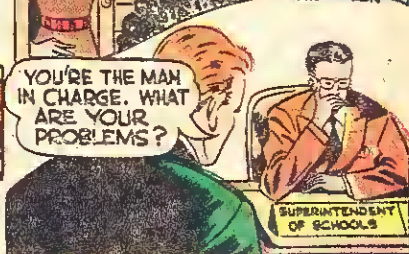
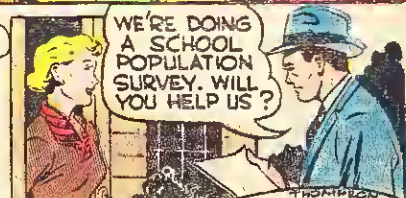
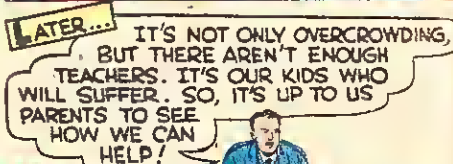
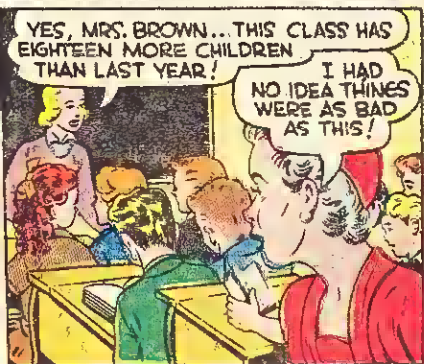
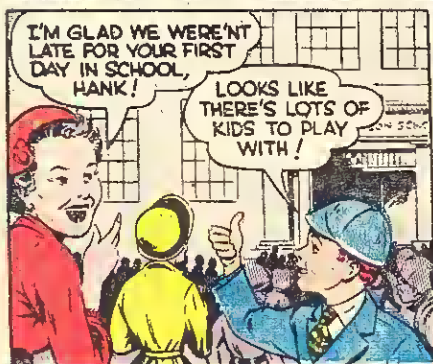


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WESTERN LORE

BUFFALO BILL OUTSHOTS SCOUT BILLY COMSTOCK. Hero to more than a generation of Americans, the name of William F. Cody remains permanently enshrined as the "greatest cowboy that ever lived." A spectacular shooting contest in which Cody participated during the early days of his career bestowed upon him the title of Buffalo Bill, a nickname he carried for the remainder of his life.

In 1876 When Cody was just 21 the Kansas Pacific Railway hired him to supply their laborers with as much buffalo meat as they could eat. Young Cody signed a contract to kill an average of 12 animals a day and during a period of 18 months he set a record by killing 4,280 buffalo. The well-fed railroad workers soon began calling him Buffalo Bill and "king of the buffalo hunters."



At about the same time another man also claimed the same title. He was Billy Comstock, chief of the scouts at Fort Wallace. A buffalo shooting contest was arranged between the two men, each man to take 3 chances on 3 different herds on successive days. On the first day Cody killed 36 buffalo to Comstock's 23. The second day found each man slaughtering 14 of the animals. When the third herd was sighted Cody did a surprising thing. He removed the saddle and bridle from his horse, dashed bare-back among the buffalo and killed 69 of them as compared to 57 slain by Comstock. The total score was Cody 119 - Comstock 94. The daring contest firmly established Cody as the rightful owner of the nickname "Buffalo Bill".

LITTLE SURE SHOT. Born in Ohio in the year 1860, Phoebe Annie Oakley Masee, became known far and wide as the greatest woman sharpshooter who ever lived. At the age of 10 she supported her family by shooting quail for a market in Cincinnati. So expert was she in this pursuit that in 5 years time she was able to pay off the mortgage on the family farm with the money earned. Annie married the first man she defeated in a rifle match, Frank Butler, a skilled vaudeville marksman, whom she vanquished at the age of fifteen. It took Buffalo Bill just 15 minutes to sign Annie Oakley for his show in 1885, but she remained with it for 17 years. It was Sitting Bull who gave her the nickname "Little Sure Shot," after watching some of her incredible shooting feats. At 20 paces Annie Oakley could slice a playing card with the thin edge toward her, and pierce a card tossed into the air several times before it reached the ground. At one time she hit 4,772 balls out of 5,000 tossed into the air.

While on a tour of Germany, Kaiser Wilhelm II was so impressed by Annie's shooting skill that he insisted she shoot a cigarette from his lips. Annie pulled the trigger and the Kaiser was left standing cigarette-less - but completely unharmed. Had her aim been bad she might have prevented World War I.





GUN INVENTOR SEEKS MODEL OF OWN WEAPON. For a number of years Samuel Colt had attempted to interest Government officials in his famous six-shooter gun, and always he had been unsuccessful. The only persons who wanted Colt's weapon were the Texas Rangers and the frontiersmen of the Texas plains, for they had found the pistol a useful one in fighting against Indians and Mexicans. Inasmuch as the cowboys lacked the funds with which to make large purchases, Colt had to give up revolver making.

At the outbreak of the Mexican War, the Texas Rangers joined the forces of Zachary Taylor and furnished their own equipment which included the Colt six-shooters. So successful were the weapons that General Taylor requisitioned the Government for 1,000 Colt revolvers. There were none available and in desperation the Government turned to Colt, but he also had none on hand. He had sold or given away all of his six-shooters, and had not made them for the last 5 years -- in fact he was bankrupt. As a frantic last resort, Colt placed advertisements in the newspapers asking for one of his own guns to be used as a model, but to no avail. Colt eventually began to produce revolvers, but none of them were made according to the specifications of his old favorite, the "Texan" model.

COFFEE BARREL BANK. For a period of 7 years (1863-1870) a coffee barrel in Dexter Horton's mercantile store served as Seattle's first and only bank. Depositors simply placed their money in a sack which they then threw into the open barrel. Horton was notified of the amount of the deposit which he noted on a ledger, the only book of record. Whenever a depositor needed money, all he had to do was go to the barrel, take out as much as he wanted and leave a receipt for the amount which was taken and then checked against the ledger. This business based on the principle of honesty was a highly successful one and continued with no losses until 1870 when it became necessary to enlarge the institution into a full fledged bank, the first and organized in the Pacific Northwest. Known as the Phillips, Horton and Company bank it was capitalized at \$50,000 and for an additional period of 10 years was the only bank in Seattle. The same bank exists today, the modern outgrowth of the strange coffee barrel system which started the whole business.



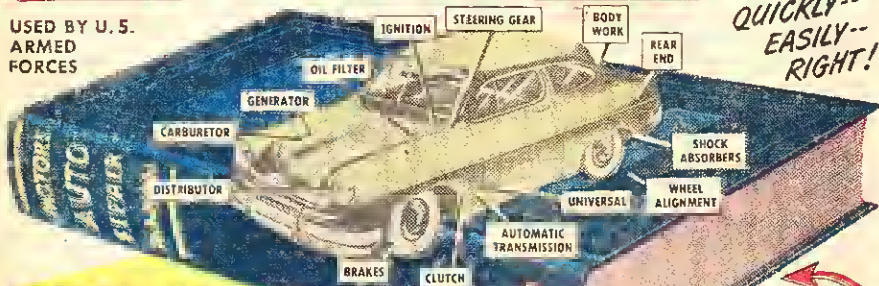
CITY NAMED BY TOSSING A COIN. Had it not been for a twist of fate the city of Portland, Oregon might today be known as Baston, Oregon.

The founding of the present city of Portland dates from 1843 when William Overton and Amos Lovejoy selected the location as the ideal site for a town. Shortly afterwards Overton sold his interest in the land to a Francis Pettigrove. In 1845, after the land had been surveyed, boundaries set up, and a section laid out in streets and lots, the problem came up of naming the new born city.

Pettigrove, a former resident of Maine, wanted to call it Portland, while Lovejoy, a native of Massachusetts, favored Boston. The argument waxed hot and heavy until finally the 2 New Englanders agreed to settle the issue by tossing a penny -- heads for Portland and tails for Boston. The coin was flipped into the air by an innocent bystander as both men anxiously looked on. Heads won and Portland received the title it bears today, the only city of the old west to be named by the toss of a coin.

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THE OLD HERMIT

KNOWS ALL



PLEASE TELL US MORE STRANGE FACTS!

PLEASE, MISTER HERMIT!

SURE! DID YOU EVER HEAR OF...



MARQUIS LAFAYETTE

OF FRANCE—

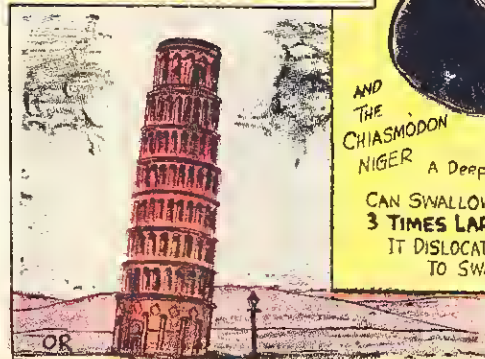
HE VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE AND WAS APPOINTED BY CONGRESS AS A MAJOR GENERAL IN THE AMERICAN ARMY—AT THE AGE OF 19! HE REFUSED A SALARY AND PAID ALL OF HIS OWN EXPENSES!



THE MAN WHO WAS —

WORTH HIS WEIGHT IN DIAMONDS!?

TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE TO THEIR LEADER, THE PEOPLE OF ISMAILIS, INDIA, PRESENTED HIM WITH CASH EQUIVALENT TO HIS WEIGHT IN DIAMONDS! HE WEIGHED 243 POUNDS AND WAS AWARDED \$1,400,000!



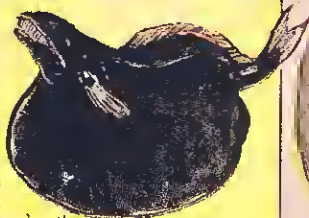
OR

THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA

WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS A BELL TOWER OF A CATHEDRAL IN 1350! IT STARTED LEANING OVER DURING CONSTRUCTION AND IS 16½ FT. OUT OF PLUMB!

THE TOWER IS 179 FT. HIGH AND THERE ARE BELLS IN THE TOP WEIGHING OVER 12 TONS!

AND THE CHIASMÖDON NIGER



A Deep Sea Fish

CAN SWALLOW OTHER FISH 3 TIMES LARGER THAN ITSELF! IT DISLOCATES ITS JAWS TO SWALLOW!

THE SHILLUK WARRIOR

of Africa

ARE THE TALLEST RACE OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD!

(AVERAGE HEIGHT - 6½ FT.)

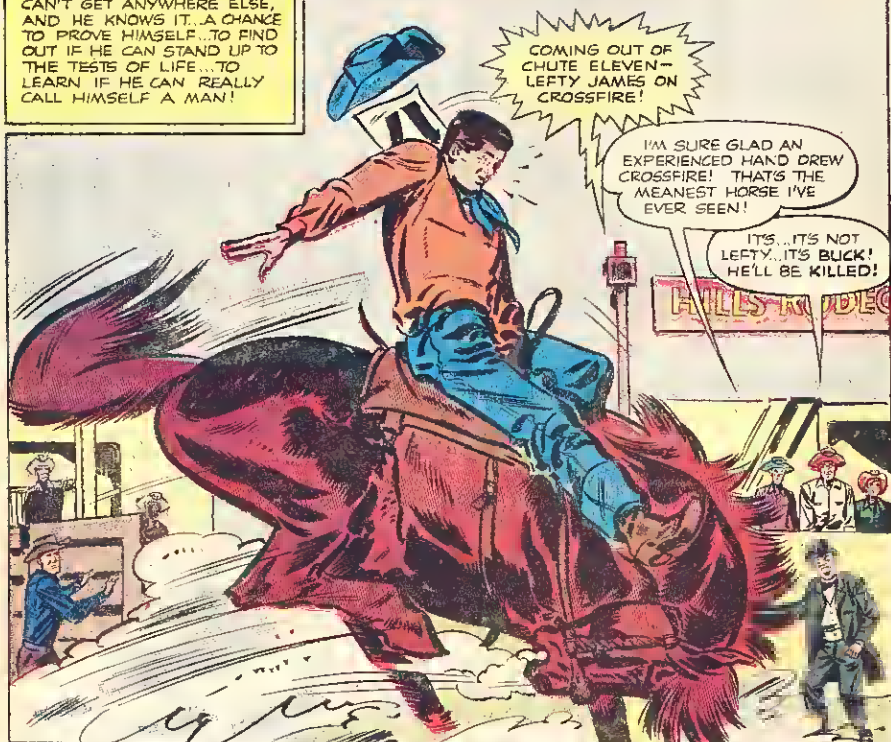


THEY REST BY STANDING ON ONE FOOT!

ASK A RODEO RIDER WHY HE STAYS WITH SUCH A TOUGH, DANGEROUS BUSINESS, AND HE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO ANSWER! HE'LL HAVE A REASON, BUT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT IT INTO WORDS! IT'S BACK-BREAKING...IT HOLDS FEW FINANCIAL REWARDS, EXCEPT FOR THE TOP RIDERS! BUT IT OFFERS SOMETHING THAT A MAN CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE, AND HE KNOWS IT...A CHANCE TO PROVE HIMSELF...TO FIND OUT IF HE CAN STAND UP TO THE TESTS OF LIFE...TO LEARN IF HE CAN REALLY CALL HIMSELF A MAN!

BUCK ROPER

IN "INFERNO JUSTICE"



HOW COME A SCHOOL TEACHER LIKE YOU GOT MIXED UP WITH A RODEO, PROFESSOR?

I RODE SOME WHEN I WAS A KID, AND IT GOT IN MY BLOOD! I RECKON I WAS NEVER HAPPY DOIN' ANYTHING ELSE! HOW ABOUT YOU, BUCK? YOU SURE WEREN'T CUT OUT FOR THIS!



I DUNNO! I GUESS I JUST NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT I WANTED TO DO... UNTIL I MET YOU GUYS! ALL I WANT TO DO NOW IS TO BECOME A GOOD RIDER!...IF MR. HILL EVER GIVES ME A CHANCE!

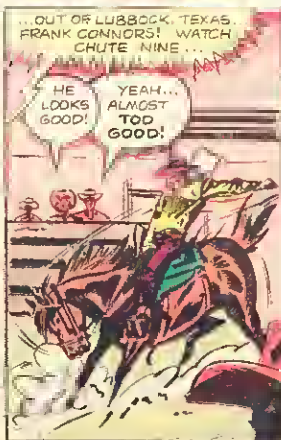
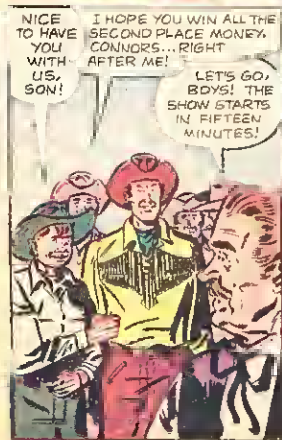
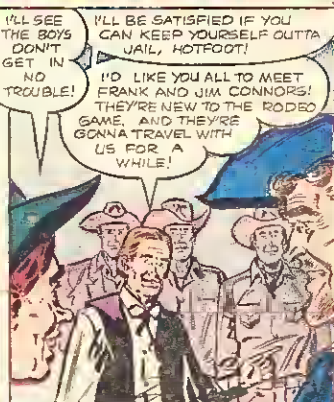
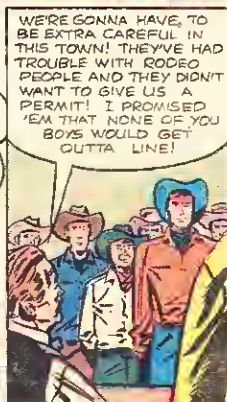
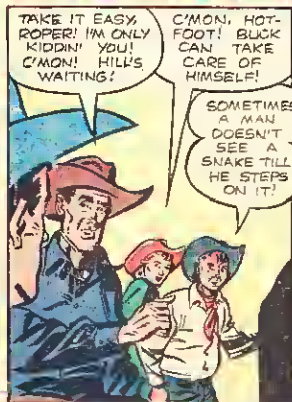
YOUR FOLKS HAVE MONEY, DON'T THEY?

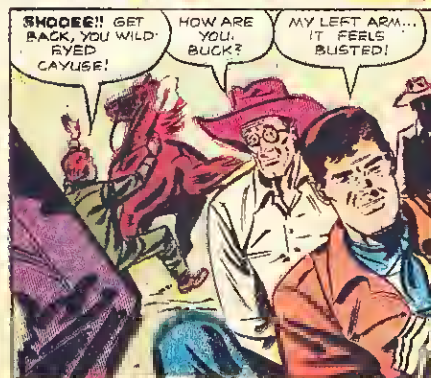
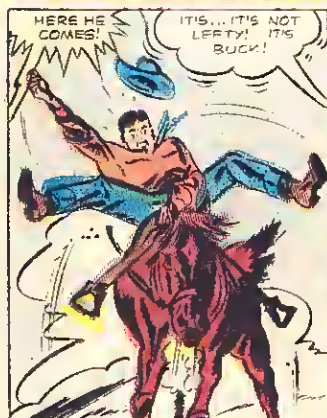
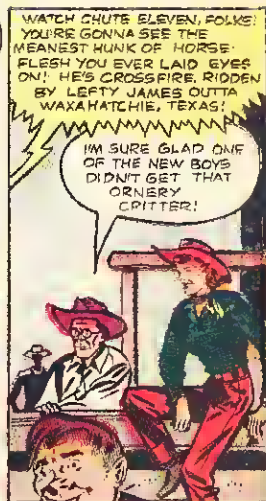


THEY USED TO, BUT WHEN DAD DIED, WE FOUND THAT WE WERE ALMOST BROKE. MOTHER COULDN'T GET ALONG IF IT WEREN'T FOR WHAT I SEND HER! THAT'S WHY I WANT TO GET SOME OF THAT PRIZE MONEY!

SO HE NEEDS DOUGH, HUH? MIGHTY INTERESTING!







BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

A FEW HOURS LATER...

COME ON, PROFESSOR—I'M HUNGRY!

I WAS JUST THINKIN' ABOUT BUCK! HE WANTED TO RIDE SO BAD...

A GOOD RIDDANCE, IF YOU ASK ME!

NOBODY ASKED YOU, MONTY... HUH? WHAT'S THIS...

POLICE! ALL YOU MEN GET INTO MR. HILL'S OFFICE RIGHT AWAY!

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

SOME COWHAND SLUGGED A WATCHMAN AND STOLE TWENTY THOUSAND BUCKS FROM A JEWELRY STORE! IT'S GOTTA BE ONE OF YOUR MEN, AND WE'RE GONNA FIND OUT WHICH ONE!

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN SPOTTED THE ROBBER'S BOOTS, SO WE KNOW HE WAS A COWBOY! NONE OF THESE PRINTS MATCH THE ONES WE FOUND IN THE STORE! WHO'S MISSING?

BUCK ROPER! HE'S A NEW GUY, AND I HEARD HIM SAY HE NEEDED DOUGH BAD!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE OUR MAN! OKAY, THE REST OF YOU CAN GO!

THAT'S YOUR OPINION! THE FACTS DON'T LIE! HE MUST'VE DONE IT!

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU AIN'T BEEN GETTIN' ANY ATTENTION FROM DIXIE SINCE BUCK CAME!

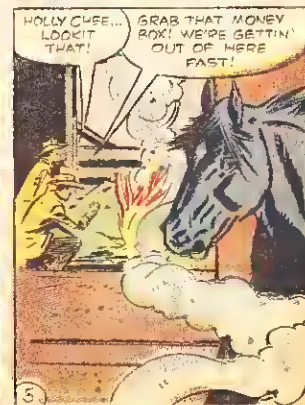
WHY, YOU SAWED-OFF LITTLE RUNT...

I'LL BREAK YOUR NECK...

AHHGG!

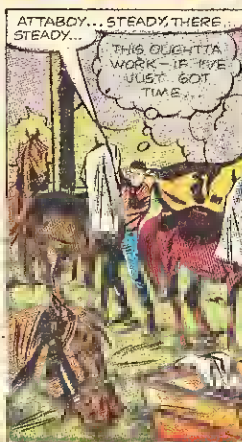
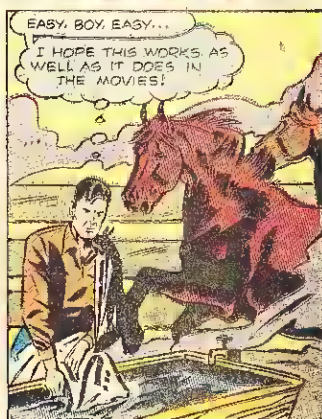
YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE GUTS TO FIGHT SOMEBODY YOUR OWN SIZE!

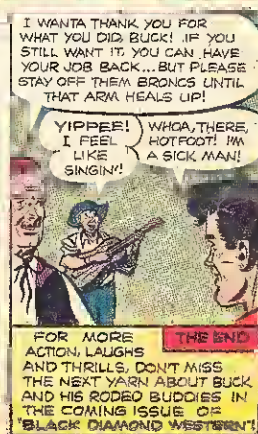
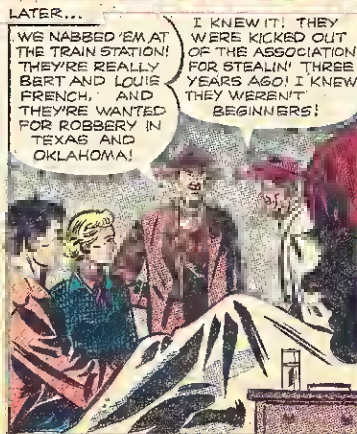
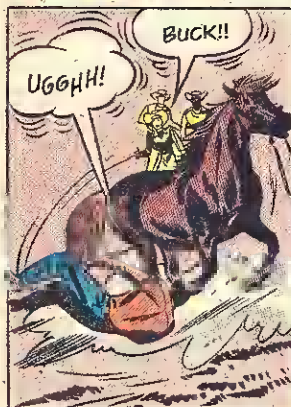
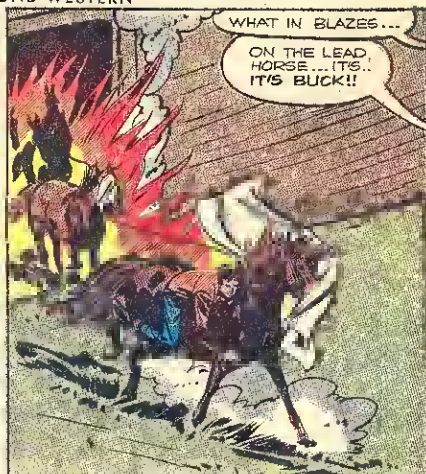
STOP THIS FIGHTING AT ONCE! WE'RE IN ENOUGH TROUBLE AS IT IS!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

MEANWHILE...





Hi there, Pal! Win Some of these **100 Silver Anniversary Prizes!**
I just won **\$100.** and this 15" tall Silver Trophy
I just won this **\$1,000,000** Body and a Gold Medal!

You Can Win All These
just as I did
in **10**
MINUTES
OF FUN
A DAY!

**I GAINED
60 LBS. OF HANDSOME
MUSCLES!**

Which of these
2 ME'S is YOU?
that 125 lb. - 6 ft.
CHICKEN WEAKLING BELOW
CHESTED WAS ME
A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

THIS MAY BE
YOUR LAST CHANCE
TO GET FOR
ALL 5 **10¢**
PICTURE
PACKED COURSES
MILLIONS HAVE
BEEN OLD FOR
\$1 AND MORE

Well You still
can win \$100
and other 25th
Anniversary Prizes.
If you MAIL coupon
below NOW! Your suc-
cess can soon be like
mine. A few weeks ago
I was a skinny weakling
like you. I had no girls to
fight for my rights. TODAY
everyone admires my ramp
movie-star build. My mighty
ARMS My heroic CHEST My
wide manly SHOULDERS. My
POPULARITY with boys. The
way GIRLS go for me. Once
as a girl-shy. My new place
in SPORTS. My new
confidence in STUDIES. My
double-entirety at work.

There's that
skinny scrawny
JOHN. Let's
pass him by!



JOHN SILL
was a 125 lb.
6 ft. WEAKLING
LOOK at him NOW.
A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN
from Head to Toe

as **YOU**
can be
soon!

YES! You'll see MUCH more MUCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR
ARMS Your CHEST expanded Your BACK AND SHOULDERS
broadened Firm Heat in Heels, you'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-
American HE-MAN WINNER in my training won't cost you one cent.
(try now)

**Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES
Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!**

After a LIFETIME STUDY of every way known to develop your body I
have devised the BEST by TEST my "SWAY PROGRESSIVE POWER"
the only method that builds you Swayer fast! You save YEARS. OUL-
LARS like movie star Tom Tyler did. Like champ John Sill did. Like
MANY THOUSANDS like you did. SO Mail coupon NOW!

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WIN \$100, etc.



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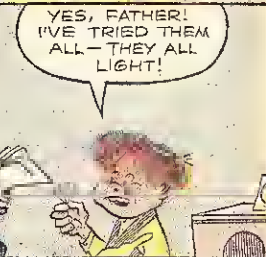
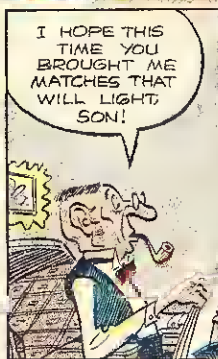
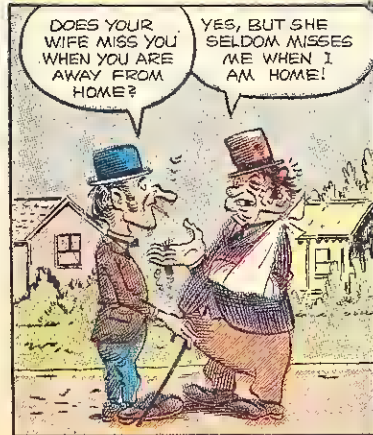
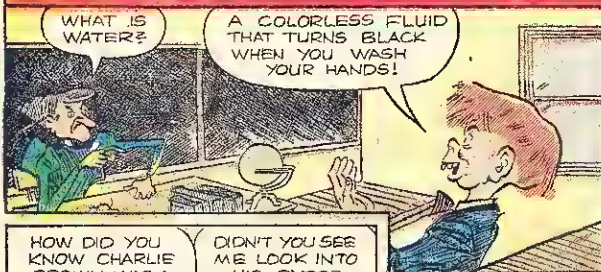
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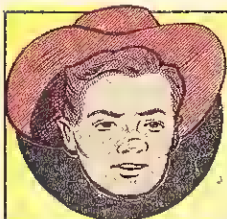
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GOOD-CORN





RED FIRE

IN "THE KILLER HOUND"

MAYBE DEVIL WAS YOUR DOG ONCE...BUT I FOUND HIM ALL SHOT UP AND BLEEDING...HALF DEAD! A MAN WHO'D DO THAT DOESN'T DESERVE TO OWN A DOG!

YOU STOLE 'IM! DOG STEALIN' IS JUST AS BAD AS CATTLE-RUSTLIN' OR HORSE-STEALIN'! AND THEY HANG MEN FOR THAT! AFTER I KILL YOU I'M GONNA FINISH HIM OFF FOR GOOD!



FEAR AND HATE WERE THE ONLY EMOTIONS DEVIL HAD EVER EXPERIENCED AT THE HANDS OF "BLACK BEN" BLUGER. THEN RED FIRE TAUGHT THE KILLER HOUND LOVE AND KINDNESS...BUT WHERE DID DEVIL'S LOYALTY LIE WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN?

BCASE

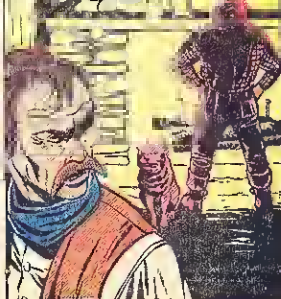
A BOY'S LIFE IN THE WILD WEST IS SELDOM DULL. HARDLY A DAY GOES BY FOR YOUNG RED FIRE THAT SOME IMPORTANT THING DOESN'T HAPPEN, SUCH AS...

WELL, HULLO! THAT KNOCK SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY! JUST LISTEN TO THAT! AIN'T GOTTA BE LOGS TO GO OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!

WHA? C'MON IN, STRANGER! YOU LOOK JUST ABOUT DRENCHED TO DEATH! SAY, THAT'S A MIGHTY FEROCIOUS LOOKIN' DOG YOU GOT THERE!

YEAH, HE'S A KILLER! DO LIKE I TELL YOU AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!

WHY, HE'S GOT CHAIN GANG LINKS ON HIS LEGS! HE...HE MUST BE "BLACK BEN" BLUGER, THE CONVICT WHO ESCAPED PRISON TWO MONTHS BACK!



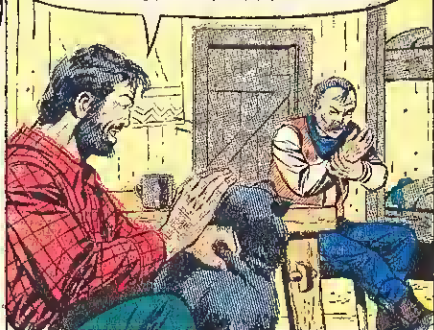
FACED WITH THE THREAT OF POSSIBLE DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE NOTORIOUS CONVICT, PETE LUNGED DESPERATELY FOR HIS RIFLE...

AGHH! LEGGO! MY ARN! HELP! CALL 'IM OFF!!

OH, YOU WANNA GET THE DROP ON ME, HUH? WELL, LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YA! I WARNED YA HE WAS A KILLER! DOWN—DOWN, BOY!



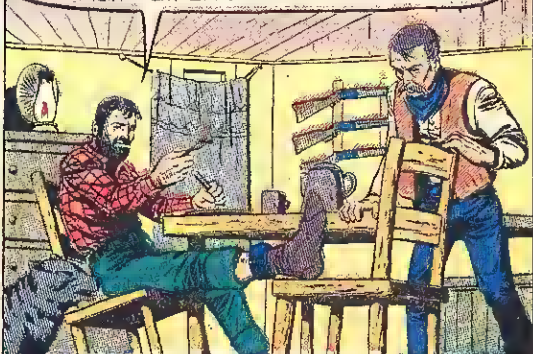
TRY THAT AGAIN, AN' I'LL LET 'IM KILL YA! 'IM THE ONLYONE HE'S AFRAID OF! BEEN NESTIN' IN THE HILLS FOR TWO MONTHS! HE WAS THE LEADER OF A WOLF PACK THAT ATTACKED ME! I SHOT 'IM AN' DROVE THE REST OF 'EM OFF!



I WAS READY TO FINISH HIM OFF WHEN I NOTICED HE WAS ONLY HALF-WOLF! I NURSED 'IM BACK TO HEALTH...STARTED TRAININ' HIM! HE'LL ATTACK ANYBODY BUT ME! HEY, HOW ABOUT SOME GRUB?



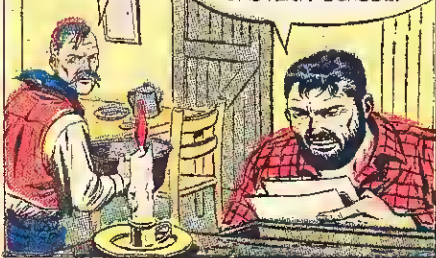
PRETTY GOOD COOKIN' FER AN OLD CODGER! WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE! I KNOW YA SPOTTED THESE LINKS ON MY LEGS! GET BUSY, AN' START FIILIN' 'EM OFF!



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THE UNWELCOME GUEST MADE HIMSELF LESS WELCOME...

HEY! THOSE PAPERS ARE PERSONAL! YOU GOT NO RIGHT—IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

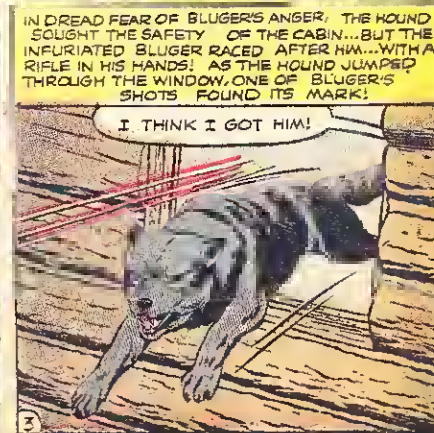
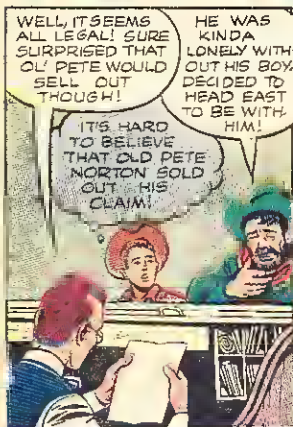
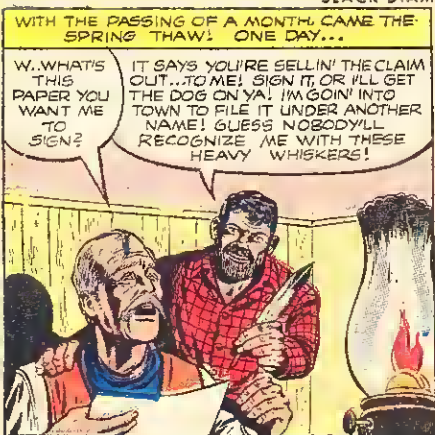
I'M MAKIN' IT MY BUSINESS! SO THERE'S A GOLD MINE ON THIS LAND, EH? AND THESE LETTERS...THEY'RE FROM YOUR SON WHO'S AWAY IN AN EASTERN SCHOOL!



THAT LODGE DON'T PRODUCE MUCH—JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP ME GOING AND TO SUPPLY THE EXPENSES FOR MY BOY'S SCHOOLIN'! I... I'VE FED YOU AND THE DOG...WHY DON'T YOU GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME BE?

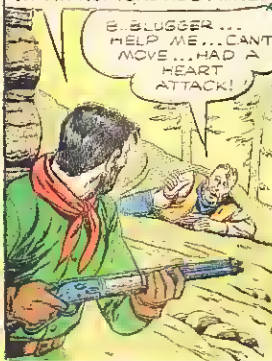
SORRY, OLD-TIMER! BUT YOU MAKE TOO GOOD A SERVANT! BESIDES YOU'RE GONNA CONTINUE WORKIN' THAT CLAIM... FOR ME!





BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

ICOULDNT HAVE MISSED HIM!
BUT IF HE HINT DEAD, I'LL
MAKE SURE THE NEXT SPOT...
WOA... NORTON! HE'S ALIVE!

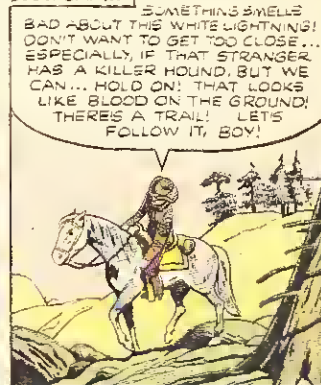


B. BLUGGER...
HELP ME... CANT
MOVE... HAD A
HEART
ATTACK!

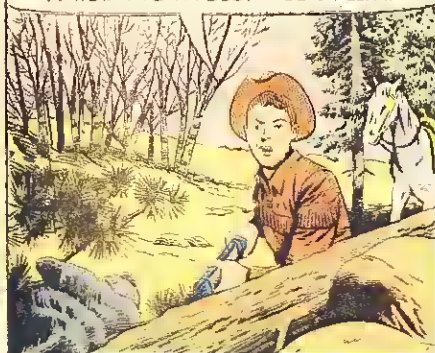
SO THATS IT, HUH? THATS
TOUGH, NORTON! YOU WERE
OKAY AS A SERVANT...
BUT I'LL BE BLUGGED IF
I'LL HAVE AN INVALID
ON MY HANDS! RECKON
I'M BETTER OFF WITH
YOU OUT OF MY
WAY!



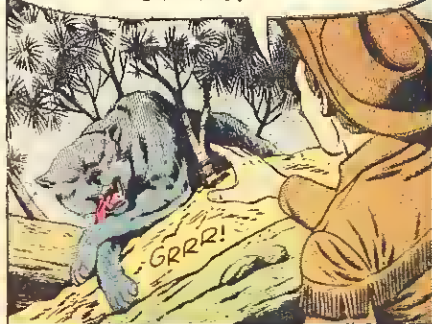
AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, NOT FAR
FROM THE CABIN, RED ARE RIDES AT
SLOW GAIT...



IT'S BEEN A HALF MILE AND STILL NO TRACE
OF... HOUND IT! THERES SOMETHING... OR SOME-
BODY UNDER THAT EUSH! WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE
A WOLF... OR A DOG! POOR FELLA!



TAKE IT EASY, BOY! I'M NOT GOING TO HURT
YOU! WHY, YOU'RE ALL SHOT UP! EASY, BOY,
YOU'RE HALF DEAD, AND STILL LOOKING FOR
TROUBLE! I CANT DO TOO MUCH FOR
YOU, BUT MAYBE DOG SUMMERS CAN
SAVE YOU!



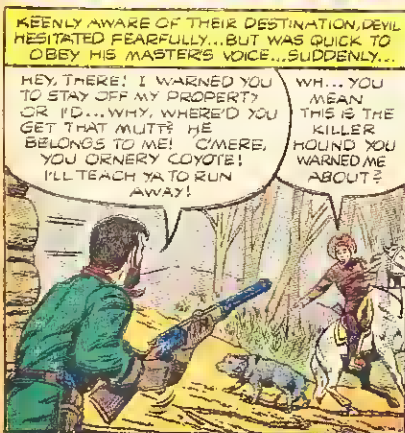
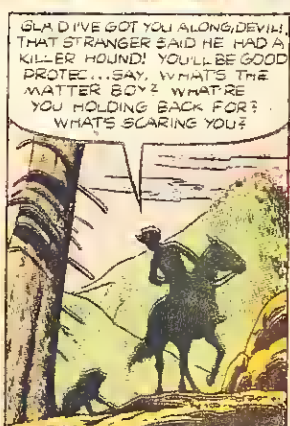
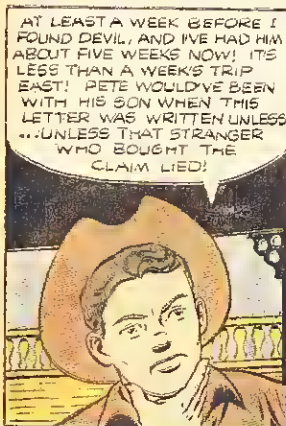
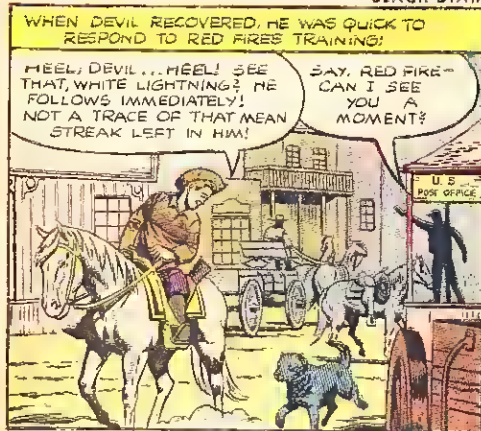
POOR CRITTERS SHIVERING TO BEAT ALL!
WHOEVER OWNED HIM MUST'VE
TREATED HIM REAL BAD! FUNNY
THING! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ALL
WOLF OR ALL DOG, EITHER! GUESS
HE TRUSTS ME NOW!



IF I SHED A MESS OF BUCK-
SHOT AND GLASS OUTTA
HIM, HE'S GOT STRENGTH
ENOUGH TO PULL THROUGH!
BUT WHY YOU'D WANT
SUCH A MEAN MUTT FOR
A PET STUMPS
ME!

CHANCES ARE HE
NEVER GOT ANY
AFFECTION! I'M GONNA
CARE FOR HIM AND
TRAIN HIM! HE'S A
DEVIL NOW, BUT...
HEY! THATS WHAT
I'M GONNA NAME
HIM! DEVIL!







HEY! YA CRAZY KID! WHAT'D YA THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?

PROTECTING MY DOG! HE MIGHT'VE BEEN YOURS ONCE, BUT I FOUND HIM SHOT UP AND BLEEDING TO DEATH! A MAN WHO'D DO THAT DOESN'T DESERVE TO OWN A DOG!

BANG!

IN AN INSTANT, BLUGER REGAINED THE UPPER HAND WITH HIS DRAWN GUN...

FOUND 'IM, HUH? WELL, I'LL SAY YA STOLE 'IM - AN' THAT'S AS BAD AS CATTLE RUSTIN'! I'LL KILL YA FIRST, THEN HIM!

YOU MEAN MURDER ME! GET HIM, DEVIL! GET HIM, BOY!



FOR AN INSTANT, DEVIL FAULTERED! DID THE LOVE FOR HIS NEW MASTER EXCEED THE FEAR HE HELD FOR THE OLD? PLUS THE THE BASIC QUALITY OF SELF-SURVIVAL, THIS WAS A TEST OF LOYALTY...

HA! HA! HIM ATTACK ME? THAT'S A LAUGH! WHY, HE'D SOONER LOOK INTO A LOADED CANNON BEFORE HE'D... AAGGH! MY HAND!

I RECKON THERE WONT BE ANY KILL-ING, NOW! GOOD BOY, DEVIL!



NOW WE'RE GOING INTO TOWN! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO PETE NORTON, BUT I KNOW HE DIDN'T GO EAST TO SEE HIS SON! HEY, DEVIL, WHAT'RE YOU DOING UP THERE? WHAT'S OVER THERE, STRANGER?

HUH? WHY... WHY, NOTHIN' AT ALL! GIT AWAY FROM THERE, YA BLASTED MUTT!



WHY, THOSE LINKS ARE THE KIND CONVICTS WEAR ON THE CHAIN GANG! NOW I KNOW YOU! WITHOUT THAT BEARD YOU'RE BEN BLUGER! ALL RIGHT, DEVIL, YOU CAN STOP DIGGING! I KNOW WHAT ELSE WE'LL FIND! THE SHERIFF'LL SEND SOME MEN OUT TO GIVE PETE A DECENT BURIAL! MOUNT UP, BLUGER, WE'RE RIDING INTO TOWN!



THERE'S A REWARD FOR CAPTURING BLUGER, RED FIRE... AND IT'S ALL YOURS!

BUT I DIDN'T DO IT! DEVIL DID IT! HE'S A GOOD DOG! I GUESS YOU'D BETTER TURN THE REWARD OVER TO PETE'S SON! PETE WANTED HIM TO FINISH SCHOOL IN THE EAST!



THE END

MORE DYNAMIC, DANGEROUS, KNOCK-DOWN-DRAG-OUT ACTION FILLED ADVENTURES WITH RED FIRE AND HIS NEW SIDEKICK, DEVIL, ARE YOURS IN THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF "BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN!"

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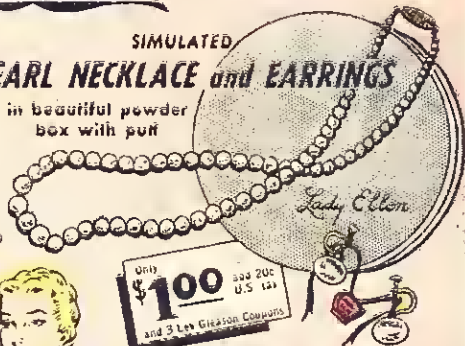
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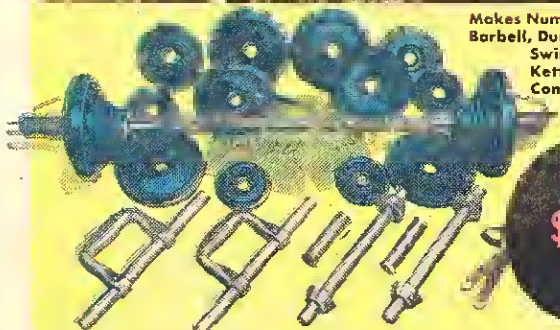
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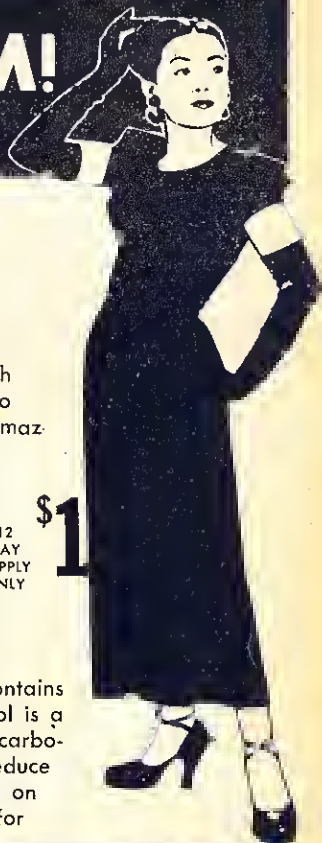
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